

## TWO BATTLESHIPS A YEAR ARE NEEDED

Secretary Meyer Put That Number as the Minimum of Efficiency.

### HOUSE PLAN GRAVE DANGER

Democratic Programme Would Leave This Country Far Behind.

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.**—The action of the House Democrats in agreeing in part on the other night to continue no appropriations for battleships this year has precipitated a crisis in the development of the sea power of the United States, in the opinion of Secretary of the Navy Meyer.

In an interview with THE SUN correspondent to-night, Secretary Meyer made it plain that the United States is under obligation to maintain a navy commensurate with those of other powers with which this country is contending for the commerce of the world.

"After long and exhaustive study of the building policies adopted by other countries," said the Secretary, "the General Board of the Navy has outlined the number of battleships they consider necessary properly to protect our country's interests. It is only on account of the most urgent necessity for economy that I have recommended to Congress the authorization of but two battleships each year."

"It is with no desire to outstrip others," Mr. Meyer continued, "but merely that the United States keep in a position to hold its own that this policy is so strenuously urged."

The responsibility of once departing from such a policy is very great, and the price the country would have to pay if the effective strength of the fleet is reduced by two battleships this year is incalculable.

"We do not hold for an adequate navy so that we may be aggressive, but simply as a reasonable insurance upon the wealth of the country." According to the last official estimate, its value had reached the vast total of about \$600,000,000, of which the navy is perhaps the chief defender.

As President Taft himself said, not long ago, prudence and patriotism demand that the United States maintain a navy commensurate with its wealth and dignity, at least until peaceful means of settling all international controversies are assured to the world."

"But," Secretary Meyer was asked, "it has been recently suggested by a member of Congress that what the navy needs is not more battleships, but more auxiliaries, such as destroyers, colliers and the like." Representative Kitchin is also quoted as saying that nothing would be lost by failing to authorize two battleships this year; that the navy is top heavy because of the lack of these auxiliaries.

"My attention has been called to the remarks attributed to Representative Kitchin," said Mr. Meyer. "As a matter of fact we are building more auxiliaries today than ever before."

"However, the navy cannot be top-heavy so long as it keeps within the limit of the number of battleships absolutely necessary to meet a probable adversary. The navy is just as strong as the battleship fleet, and no stronger. The fleet assuredly does not need more auxiliaries to bring it to the highest state of efficiency, but destroyers, scouts or other auxiliaries can not replace the battleship when it comes to the actual conflict. On the other hand, to build auxiliaries without a proportionate number of battleships is merely to feed the enemy. If he has the stronger battleship fleet he can easily help himself to auxiliaries unsupported by battleships."

"You may remember that for many years past the Navy Department has been sent to Congress as a guide through the Secretary, a building programme including auxiliaries. In 1907 and 1908, for example, the Department approved the recommendation of the General Board and asked for an annual increase of four battleships, four scouts, two destroyers, four submarines, three colliers, one repair ship, one ammunition ship and two mine laying ships. In 1907 the Congress authorized two destroyers and one battleship. In 1908 Congress came nearer to the programme and authorized two battleships, five colliers, ten destroyers and eight submarines. Thus for the two years taken together they failed to grant one battleship, four scouts, ten destroyers, one collier, two repair ships, two ammunition ships and four mine laying ships asked for in the Department's recommendations.

"The following year the Department recommended only two battleships and one repair ship, this reduction being forced so as to keep the appropriation within the economic limit set by the Administration for that year."

"It was necessary to cut down somewhere, and the cut was made on the auxiliary vessels rather than on the battleships. Since that time it has been my consistent desire to recommend such increases as would maintain our relative position as a naval power, while keeping the appropriations within required limits."

"A fleet weak in battleships is a danger to a strong country," the Secretary added. "It leads to the initiation of policies beyond our strength. Two battleships a year is the irreducible minimum for our fleet if we are to maintain the Monroe Doctrine, for example. Battleships are the very backbone of the fleet."

"You must remember that our old ships are becoming obsolete, some going out each year. Next year four old ships will have to be regarded as no longer fit for dependence upon in our first or second line of defense."

"To maintain our present position as a naval power the minimum annual increase in battleships must be two a year. Our programme calls for the retirement of obsolete battleships after twenty years service and their replacement in the second line of defense by battleships ten years old. These ten-year-old battleships are to be replaced by the new dreadnaughts. The retirement of obsolete ships must be anticipated by Congress if we are even to keep up to our present rank."

"The construction of battleships should not be interrupted until we have at least twenty years of modern type in the first line of our defense—the modern type competitors in naval strength. Germany and Japan are rapidly adding to the number of capital ships. Germany is laying down dreadnaughts at the rate of about one a year and Japan authorized the construction of five capital ships in the last year."

"When Mr. Meyer was reminded of the fact that Admiral Lord Charles Beresford in his recent book, "The Betrayal," declared against the construction of so many battleships of the dreadnaught type, he warmly defended this class of fighting vessel.

"The advent of the dreadnaught type

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### NATIONAL BUREAU OF HEALTH URGED

Officers of State Boards and Others  
Say It Would Reduce  
Death Rate.

### MEN MIGHT LIVE A CENTURY

Senator Owen at Republican Club Says  
Country Protects Hogs but  
Not Humans.

Officers of the health boards of New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island by letter or in person favored the creation of a national health bureau at the Saturday discussion at the Republican Club yesterday. Others who spoke in favor of the bureau were Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale, Dr. J. D. Bryant, Dr. Louis L. Seaman, ex-surgeon-major U. S. V.; President Poll of the Academy of Medicine and Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma, the father of the bill to create such a bureau. Several speakers agreed with Senator Owen that with a proper conservation of the national health men ought to live to reach the 100 year mark at least.

"But to return to Representative Kitchin's argument that more battleships are not necessary at present because the modern battleship can fight for itself, private guards could turn out any number of auxiliaries. In case of unforeseen hostilities merchant ships could be converted into auxiliaries, no expense what ever could be devised to replace battleship losses of a sudden war."

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"If we had a fleet of eight battleships in the Atlantic in 1908 instead of four, the cost of building them would be \$75,000,000. The extra cost of those additional battleships would have been \$25,000,000. And as was the war cost us \$50,000,000."

"I cannot say too often that it is the battleships which decide the issue when war comes, and that we must have a wide spread distribution throughout the nation—a large population and great wealth and resources is immune from attack. This has been too often despised by the history of war. In any war involving the United States the control of the sea will determine the outcome."

The founders of the naval strength in the battleship and we should continue uniformly and systematically to increase our battleship strength at all costs."

"Wars cannot be brought to a successful issue if the fleet remains on its own coast. It must seek out the enemy and strike him there, and strike him first. The battleship is the only striking energy that counts nowadays."

"Finally, one other point," said the Secretary of the Navy. "The national funds expended on the construction of battleships and their equipment have served to stimulate the growth of many of the industries of the country. If it is possible to obtain contracts for new battleships for the navy some of the best shipyards in the country would close their gates before now. But of even more importance is the fact that these yards are an asset of the utmost value and importance for national defense, especially when we are supply on short notice the ships that we now lack, and because they enable us to get battleships constructed in this country beyond the capacity of our own yards."

**DECREE VOIDS TWO MARRIAGES**

Christina Boos Found to Have Been  
Frederick W. Sherman's Lawful Wife.—  
Two marriages were dissolved yesterday when Supreme Court Justice Platzek signed a decree of divorce in a suit brought by Christina Boos Sherman against Frederick W. Sherman, well known real estate operator, who married Mrs. Jane Gleason Sherman two years ago and who consummated their marriage to Christina Boos Sherman was only by oral contract and was invalid.

Sherman's first wife died in 1898 and he entered into a contract of marriage almost immediately with Christina Boos, who had been a member of his household for over ten years, and she had sued for divorce when Sherman took his third wife. Justice Platzek decided that Sherman's marriage to her was legal because they lived as husband and wife for ten years and their son was baptized in the presence of his parents by a clergyman.

**Valerian O'Farrell Appeals to the Court.**—Valerian J. O'Farrell, the veteran detective who was recently retired from the Police Department, obtained a writ of corporant yesterday from Supreme Court Justice Lehman in New York, the proceedings of which he was fined a month's pay by the Police Commissioner last August when he was found guilty of accepting \$1,000 from a private detective for services in connection with the shirtwaist strike. O'Farrell insisted that he got the money for stock in a publishing company he sold to the detective.

**Municipal Heroes Fund Nearly \$600,000.**—Subscriptions to the general fund for the Fire and Police departments received by J. P. Morgan & Co. and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. yesterday amounted to \$16,550. The fund now aggregates \$8,962,95.

THE SUN, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1912.

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Princesse Lace Bridal Veils,  
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wide—value \$70.00 per yard; at . . . \$55.00

Real Rose Point Lace Edging, 6 inches  
wide—value \$45.00 per yard; at . . . \$29.95

Real Point Duchesse Applique Lace, 6  
inches wide—value \$25.00 per yd.; at . . . \$16.50

Real Venetian Lace, double edged  
Banding, 10 inches wide—value  
\$29.95  
\$40.00 per yard; at . . .

Real Venetian Lace Edging, 5 inches  
wide; per yard, at . . . \$17.00

Real Venetian Lace, 8 inches wide;  
per yard; at . . . \$48.95

Real Point Milan Laces, 4½ to 9 inches wide'  
\$5.95 and \$7.95 per yard

Hand Made Princesse Laces, 9 inches  
wide—value \$3.00 per yard; at . . . \$1.90

Hand Made Princesse Laces, 7 inches  
wide—value \$2.00 per yard; at . . . \$1.25

Real Irish Crochet Lace Motifs, various shapes  
and sizes, 48c to \$1.48 each

Real Flemish Lace Edges, 9 inches wide,  
per yard, at . . . \$25.00

Real Irish Crochet Lace Allovers, 18  
inches wide—value \$22.00 per yd.; at . . . \$15.00

Real Irish Crochet Edges and Insertions,  
both baby and heavy kinds, 13½ to  
21½ inches wide; per yard, at . . . \$2.95

Real Irish Crochet Lace Edges and  
Insertions, 1 inch wide; per yard, at . . . 48c

Real Filet Lace Insertion, 7 inches wide,  
value \$7.00 per yard; at . . . \$4.75

Real Carrickmacross Applique Laces, 9 and 12  
inches wide, \$6.95 and \$7.95 per yard

Real Carrickmacross Guipure Laces,  
and Insertions; per yard, at . . . \$7.50

Real Valenciennes Laces and Insertions,  
narrow widths—value 45c per yd.; at . . . 35c

Broadway & 20th St.; 5th Ave.; 19th St.

### MACY MUTUAL AID BENEFIT.

Eight Thousand Attend Entertainment in  
Grand Central Palace.

The twenty-fifth annual entertainment and reception of the Macy Mutual Aid Association, which was held at the new Grand Central Palace last night, was a great success.

More than 8,000 men and women were present at the vaudeville show that was given before the dancing.

The entertainment was for the fund to assist employees of R. H. Macy & Co. in times of sickness and to contribute something to their families in case of death.

### W. R. Hearst Buys an Atlanta Newspaper.

William Randolph Hearst has extended the territory covered by his newspapers by the recent purchase of a newspaper located in Atlanta, the furthest point south that Mr. Hearst has reached. The paper he has just acquired is the Atlanta *Georgian and News*.

**J. & J. SLATER**  
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## February Clearance Sale

## High-Grade Shop Worn Shoes

For Men, Women and Children

## Further Reductions

### To Effect Immediate Clearance

Women's Boots . . . . .	3.50	to	5.00
Women's Oxfords . . . . .	2.50	to	4.00
Women's Pumps (tan and black) . . . . .	2.00	to	4.00
Women's Riding Boots . . . . .	5.00		
Men's Shoes . . . . .	3.00	to	5.00
Satin Slippers (evening shades) . . . . .	from		1.50

Broadway, Corner 25th Street

## B. Altman & Co.

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IMPORTANT SALES AT ADVANTAGEOUS PRICES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR TO-MORROW (MONDAY), AS FOLLOWS:

IMPORTED LACE CURTAINS & BED SETS  
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### LACE BED SETS, USUALLY \$12.50 TO 28.00

SINGLE SIZE SETS \$6.75, 8.50, 11.00 & 15.00  
DOUBLE SIZE SETS 8.00, 10.00, 12.50 & 17.50

### LACET ARABE PANELS

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### 2,500 YARDS OF EMBROIDERY FLOUNCES

27 INCHES WIDE, CUSTOMARY PRICES 65c. TO \$2.50

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